

Department of the Army, DoD

§ 578.4

(3) A period in specified areas where U.S. troops are engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

(gg) *Primary next of kin.* Primary next of kin are, in order of precedence, surviving spouse, eldest child, father or mother, eldest brother or sister, or eldest grandchild.

(hh) *Reserve Components of the Army.* The Army National Guard of the United States and the U.S. Army Reserve.

(ii) *U.S. Individual Army decorations.* U.S. Individual Army decorations are the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

(jj) *U.S. unit decorations.* U.S. unit decorations are the Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and Army Superior Unit Award.

(kk) *Valor.* Heroism performed under combat conditions.

(ll) *Wartime criteria.* (1) A period of formally declared war and for 1 year after the cessation of hostilities.

(2) A period of military operations against an armed enemy and for 1 year after cessation of hostilities. Only those individuals actually in the combat zone or those in the communications zone whose duties involve direct control or support of combat operations are to be considered under wartime criteria.

(3) A period of national emergency declared by the President or by the Congress.

§ 578.3 Display sets of award elements and the Medal of Honor.

(a) *Government agencies.* Upon approval by the Secretary of the Army, samples of military decorations may be furnished, without charge, for one display at the headquarters of each Army and higher field commander, in the offices of the chiefs of governmental

agencies not under military jurisdiction where opportunity for the public to view the display is assured, and in each office of Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) with activities that include matters pertaining to decorations.

(b) *Civilian institutions.* Upon approval by the Secretary of the Army, samples of military decorations may be furnished, at cost price, to museums, libraries, and to national headquarters of historical, numismatic, and military societies; and to institutions of such public nature as will assure an opportunity for the public to view the exhibits under circumstances beneficial to the Army. All decorations furnished to civilian institutions for exhibition purposes will be engraved with the words, "For Exhibition Purposes only."

(c) *Requests.* Letter requests for decorations for exhibit or display will be made to Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (USA HRC), ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471.

(d) *Display.* Service medals for service prior to World War II will not be provided for display purposes since only minimum essential quantities are available for issue to authorized recipients.

(e) *Purchase of medals.* Except for the Medal of Honor, all other decorations, service medals, and ribbons can be purchased from private vendors who have been issued a certificate of authority by the Institute of Heraldry. A list of certified vendors can be obtained from HQ, USA HRC (see § 578.3 (c)).

(f) *Display sets of the Medal of Honor.* Upon written requests, The Adjutant General of the Army can approve issue of a display Medal of Honor to government agencies (defined in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section). Adequate security arrangement must be provided for the medal so that it will not be lost through vandalism or theft. Maximum exposure of the medal to the public must be ensured, on a free of charge basis, under circumstances beneficial to the Army.

§ 578.4 U.S. Military decorations.

To whom awarded, see Table 1 below.

TABLE 1

| Decorations listed in order of precedence | Awarded for: | | Awarded to: | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | Heroism | Achievement or service | Military | | Civilian | |
| | | | United States | Foreign | United States | Foreign |
| Medal of Honor | Combat | n/a | War ¹ | n/a | n/a | n/a. |
| Distinguished Service Cross | Combat | n/a | War | War | n/a | n/a. |
| Distinguished Service Medal | War | War & Peace | War & Peace | War & Peace | War ² | War. ² |
| Silver Star | Combat | n/a | War | War | War ² | War. ² |
| Legion of Merit | n/a | War & Peace | War & Peace | War & Peace ⁵ | n/a | n/a. |
| Distinguished Flying Cross | Combat | War & Peace ⁴ | War & Peace | War | n/a | n/a. |
| Soldier's Medal | Noncombat | n/a | War & Peace ⁴ | War & Peace ⁴ | n/a | n/a. |
| Bronze Star Medal | Combat ³ | War & Peace ⁴ | War & Peace ⁴ | War & Peace ⁴ | n/a | n/a. |
| Purple Heart | For wounds received as the result of hostile action. | n/a | War & Peace ^{7, 8} | n/a | n/a | n/a. |
| Meritorious Service Medal | n/a | Peace & War ⁹ | Peace | Peace | n/a | n/a. |
| Air Medal | Combat ³ | War & Peace ⁴ | War & Peace ⁴ | War | War ² | War. ² |
| Army Commendation Medal | Noncombat | War | War & Peace ⁶ | War & Peace ⁶ | n/a | n/a. |
| Army Achievement Medal | Combat ³ | Peace | Peace ⁶ | Peace ⁶ | n/a | n/a. |
| | n/a | War ^{6, 9} | | | | |

Notes:¹ The Medal of Honor is awarded only to U.S. military personnel.² Under limited circumstances. Recommendations will be forwarded to HQ, USA HRC for processing.³ Awarded with Bronze "V" Device for valor in combat.⁴ Awarded for peacetime when no formal war has been declared but the U.S. is engaged in military operations against an armed enemy.⁵ Awarded to foreign military personnel in one of four degrees.⁶ Not awarded to general officers.⁷ Awarded to military personnel wounded by terrorists or while members of a peacekeeping force.⁸ Approval authority is the Secretary of the Army.⁹ Authorized for award in a combat theater for non-combat meritorious service and achievement.**§ 578.5 Award recommendations.**

(a) It is the responsibility and privilege of any individual having personal knowledge of an act, achievement, or service believed to warrant the award of a decoration to submit a recommendation for consideration. It is usually desirable that the intended recipient not be informed of a pending recommending or given an implied promise of an award prior to final approval and clearance. This is especially true when the intended recipient is a foreigner.

(b) The Department of the Army (DA) Form 638 (Recommendation for Award) will be used to initiate, process and approve award recommendations of all U.S. Army individual decorations, to include valor and heroism decorations.

(c) Narrative description of meritorious service or achievement for awards of the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM), and Army Achievement Medal (AAM) will be limited to

bullet format in the space allowed on the DA Form 638. Bullet format or narratives may be used for the Legion of Merit (LM). Narratives are required for all other awards and will be added as an addendum to the recommendation. Narrative should be prepared on 8½ by 11-inch bond paper and is limited to one double-spaced typewritten page except for recommendations of the Distinguished Service Medal and above. Narratives for valor must contain a description of the following elements: Terrain and weather of the area in which the action took place; enemy conditions, to include morale, proximity, firepower, casualties and situation prior to, during and after the act; the effect of the act on the enemy; the action of comrades in the immediate vicinity of the act and the degree of their participation in the act; if the act occurred in aerial flight, the type and position of the aircraft and the individual's crew position; the degree to which the act was voluntary; the degree to